

BEFORE
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF
SOUTH CAROLINA
DOCKET NO. 2002-66-C - ORDER NO. 2008-819
DECEMBER 11, 2008

IN RE: Petition of HTC Communications, Inc. for)
Arbitration of an Interconnection Agreement)
with Verizon South, Inc.)

ORDER APPOINTING
HEARING OFFICER

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (“Commission”) on the Commission’s Motion to appoint Jocelyn G. Boyd, Esquire, to serve as a hearing officer in the present docket regarding HTC Communications, Inc.’s petition for arbitration of an interconnection agreement with Verizon South, Inc. This appointment is in order that the hearing officer may dispose of procedural and evidentiary matters pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 58-3-40 (Supp. 2007).

Section 58-3-40(C)(1) states that upon the request of any party or any commissioner, the commission may employ a hearing officer who may hear and determine procedural motions or other matters not determinative of the merits of the proceedings. Under (C)(2), the hearing officer has full authority, subject to being overruled by the Commission, to rule on questions concerning the conduct of the case and other matters. Under (C)(3), the officer must be an attorney qualified to practice in all courts of this State with a minimum of eight years’ practice experience.

We find that Jocelyn G. Boyd meets these qualifications, and we therefore grant the Motion appointing her as hearing officer in this case. As hearing officer in this

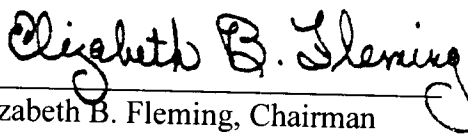
proceeding, we direct Ms. Boyd to rule on appropriate matters in the case and dispose of procedural and evidentiary matters for this proceeding.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

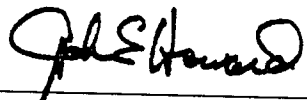
1. Jocelyn G. Boyd, Esquire, is hereby appointed as hearing officer in Docket No. 2002-66-C for disposition of procedural and evidentiary matters for this proceeding regarding the petition of HTC Communications, Inc. for arbitration of an interconnection agreement with Verizon South, Inc.

2. This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:


Elizabeth B. Fleming, Chairman

ATTEST:



John E. Howard, Vice Chairman

(SEAL)